The Premature Song Band

a comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, 6.14.13©

[The scene is introduced by a VOICE-OVER ANNOUNCER, who tells us we are about to see a reenactment of a secret moment in movie history.]

A music group, CAPT. KURT AND THE TRACKIES, is in a music studio, their musical instruments in hand, CAPT. KURT the only one with a microphone instead of an instrument. A movie workprint is being projected for them at the same time, it immediately becoming apparent they are there to come up with songs for the movie's soundtrack.

CAPT. KURT, the leader of the group, appears to be a conceited idiot, and after watching just 10 seconds of the movie, says, "Okay, okay, stop the movie, Harry, I can see where this is going, oh yeah, I can see exactly where this is going. Now, let's see…. Okay, here's a great idea for a song for this movie. Roll the tape-recorder watch-a-mah-call-it. I got it, I got the whole thing."

CAPT. KURT begins singing a cappella, momentarily thereafter being accommodated by the perfect musical accompaniment of his band, THE TRACKIES. CAPT. KURT has apparently come up with a song around his quite odd perception of where the movie's entire story must be going, after only seeing the first 10 seconds of the movie, this partially the result of his presumption that he has found the true essence of the movie, though a highly neurotic nature also seems partially responsible.

HARRY calls to them from an intercom in the movie projection booth, "Hey, did you want me to roll the rest of it from where you had me stop it?"

CAPT. KURT looks at THE TRACKIES, who nod their heads. CAPT. KURT is visibly disappointed, but gives HARRY the okay. As the movie continues, in the next ten seconds everything CAPT. KURT had presumed is clearly proven an impossible direction for the actual movie, prompting CAPT. KURT to mutter, "Oh geez."

After a few more seconds, CAPT. KURT says, "Okay, okay. That other song's not gonna work, I see that, this didn't go where I thought, okay, but now I see, okay. Let me think – right. Alright, here's the song! Oh, this is great!"

Once again, CAPT. KURT is making an absurd presumption, even more absurd than the time before, with regard to the implications of where the movie is going, without even having watched one full minute.

This goes on several more times, THE TRACKIES growing a little annoyed at the fact that CAPT. KURT keeps interrupting their enjoyment of the movie, it

taking forever just to see the first minute or so. Sometimes CAPT. KURT has HARRY stop the movie 4 seconds after the time before, which THE TRACKIES find particularly annoying. Meanwhile, the new songs CAPT. KURT comes up with are continually abandoned just moments after being created, due to new developments in the movie rendering the catchy tunes irrelevant.

CAPT. KURT is increasingly unraveling from having been mistaken so many times, apparently losing it altogether, e.g., coming up with a mad song about lizards from the center of the Earth ruining a gorilla's wedding, etc., even though at this very early point in the movie there's no suggestion whatsoever that things will develop this way.

Surprisingly, after just the first minute and a half of seeing the movie, CAPT. KURT suddenly comes up with a song that outlines the important moments in Kubrick's "2001, A Space Odyssey" – which is what the movie turns out to be.

[The VOICE-OVER ANNOUNCER returns, to explain that we have just seen another fascinating moment in movie history. "Unfortunately, as catchy as that Capt. Kurt and the Trackies' song was, and as perfectly as it described the key moments in '2001' (astoundingly, after only viewing the first minute and a half! – although, it had to be admitted, Capt. Kurt's song completely failed to guess there would be that wonderful part in '2001' where HAL sings, 'Daisy Bell,' which, for me anyway, really was the high point of this great Kubrick masterpiece)…. Nevertheless, as history now shows, Kubrick ultimately decided to go another way with the soundtrack, choosing instead 'Also sprach Zarathustra, Op.30' by Richard Strauss as the musical work to best represent his masterpiece, his great masterpiece. Oh well, Capt. Kurt and the Trackies, too bad Kubrick passed on your song. So sorry! WE still think it's terrific!" Their tune is heard, then fades out as we see the Monolith fading in.]

THE END